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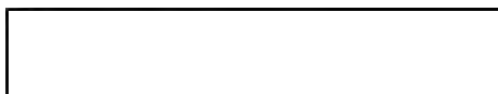
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State Dept. review completed

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Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010500240001-8

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Communist China - UK: The Chinese and British have taken reciprocal steps to ease tension between the two countries.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry informed the British chargé on 27 November that restrictions on members of the British mission in Peking would be lifted as of 29 November and that the departure of British dependents would no longer be barred. The Chinese move follows a British initiative on 20 November easing restrictions on the movements of Chinese diplomats in London.

The Chinese decision may also be linked to the informal Sino-British border agreement on Hong Kong reached on 25 November. Peking originally broached the idea of negotiations in late October. After lengthy talks between border authorities, individuals arrested by both sides were released, and the British reopened a border crossing.

The British adopted a conciliatory approach throughout the month-long border talks, largely in the hope that any understanding reached might help ease tension along the border. The British probably now feel that they have established a channel for talks with Chinese border authorities in the event of future trouble.

The British negotiators obtained no firm Chinese commitments to prevent further incidents in the area, but the border is quiet, and Chinese Communist propaganda has been restrained. Chinese military authorities are maintaining control in the frontier area.

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NOTES

UK - South Arabia: The last British troops in Aden withdrew without incident yesterday morning, and South Arabia has become the People's Republic of South Yemen. In Geneva, Britain and the National Liberation Front signed an agreement after compromising on the disposition of certain islands and on the question of British aid to the new state. The Front settled for continuing negotiations on aid, provided the UK continues existing financial assistance for six months.

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South Korea: Opposition legislators entered the National Assembly yesterday ending a five-month boycott in protest against the controversial general elections last June. In the agreement which broke the deadlock the government did not rescind the election results, as the opposition had demanded, but did promise to enact legislation to forestall future irregularities. Assembly sessions are almost certain to be stormy as the opposition presses for amendment of recent legislation and early action on government promises.

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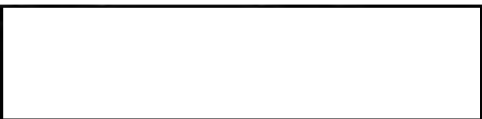
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